

What is ‘Empowering Summer Camp Youth Leaders’?

Empowering Summer Camp Youth Leaders (ESYL for short) is a short training course, hosted by YMCA Nederland, to strengthen the YMCA summer camp work in Europe. The training course takes place from 20 – 24 of May, and is located on one of the national camp sites of YMCA Nederland in Leusden, in the middle of The Netherlands.

There are 2 goals for the training

First of all there is the goal to strengthen the YMCA summer camp work in Europe, by sharing knowledge with each other, learning new ideas, methods and games from each other.

The second goal is to see if we can start to make some sort of ‘standard’ for European summer camps from the YMCA and related organisations (for example Don Bosco). Making a standard means that we start making a rough guideline what you offer as YMCA when you organize summer camps, what it is to make sure you offer quality that fits within the YMCA, and what you need to reach that quality.

Some of the countries involved in this project have been organizing summer camps for quite a long time, and there are also countries who have just (re)started with summer camping with their organization.

Number of places for the training (this is including the group leader)

The Netherlands YMCA	6
Romania	5
Macedonia	5
The Netherlands Don Bosco Rijswijk	5
Sweden	4
Finland	5
Italy	5
France	4
Portugal	4

Who can participate?

The training course is for volunteers and/or youth workers who organize summer camps, or want to learn how to organize summer camps. The age of the participants should be between 17 and 25. For the development of the participant and for the YMCA standard for summer camping, it is important that the volunteers who participate have the possibility to be a leader at a summer camps this summer, so they can use the knowledge we share and teach during the training!

If you have years and years of experience as a summer camp leader, it might be wise to come as a trainer otherwise you might already know a lot of what we will teach during the program. You can contact the Dutch contact person for further details about being a trainer.

What does the program look like?

The program will be full of knowledge about how to organize summer camps, how to work with youth, to be a good youth leader, group work, and of course games! You can check the [timeline.pdf](#) for the program in concept. If you have suggestions for us, please let us know.

When does the training start?

The training starts on the 20th of May. Arrival on the 20th is possible till 15.00. If you are later, please let us know. The trainers will arrive on the 19th of May. It is important for the trainers to arrive one day earlier than the participants so we can prepare the training program. The training will end on the 24th of May, we need to clear the campsite before 12.00.

If you want to enjoy The Netherlands before or after the training, you are welcome to do that, but you cannot come earlier or stay at the campsite, as it is booked for other groups. The training will end on Sunday 12.00 it is not possible to leave earlier.

Where does the training take place?

The training takes place on the YMCA Campsite of the Dutch YMCA. The campsite can host up to 300 people at the same time, divided into 9 different groups. The training group will be 1 of the groups that will be at the campsite during the training.

The campsite is located in the middle of the woods, and during spring and autumn is used by many different groups who want to organize camps. During summertime the YMCA organizes their own summercamps there.

Although it is a big terrain, it is still a simple accommodation. There is a big kitchen and central building, where the staff works and prepares the dinners, but the campsite itself consists of tents. So group leaders and participants will sleep in tents, so you need to take a sleeping bag with you. In There are mattresses at the campsite, so you do not need to bring one of those.

The address of the campsite is: Paradijsweg 4, Leusden.

For more pictures: <http://www.ymcakampeercentra.nl/foto-s>





Travel & reimbursement

You will need to travel to train station of Amersfoort, a city in the middle of The Netherlands, on your own. Amersfoort is easy to reach by a direct train from Amsterdam and from the Schiphol Airport. If you fly to Eindhoven or Rotterdam, you'll might need to change train in Utrecht.

In Amersfoort we will pick you up with a minivan, as the campsite is a bit hard to reach, as it is in the middle of the woods.